

US Appl. No. 10/725 186

Attorney Docket No. 03-45

Claims

1-16. (canceled)

17.(currently amended) A motor vehicle beam shell designed to be placed behind a bumper skin, the shell having with a recess for receiving a strength member comprising metal, the shell consisting essentially of a thermoplastic material and including shell cladding which interfits with the shell, thereby forming a hollow body defining the recess for receiving the strength member.

18.(previously presented) The motor vehicle beam shell of claim 17, wherein the strength member comprises at least one material from the group consisting of metal and a composite material including a metal.

19(previously presented) The motor vehicle beam shell of claim 18, wherein the metal comprises aluminum.

20.(previously presented) The motor vehicle beam shell of claim 17, wherein the strength member includes an outside shape and the recess is dimensioned to fit snugly around at least a region of the outside shape.

21(previously presented) The motor vehicle beam shell of claim 20, wherein the region is selected from the group consisting of a central portion of the shell and a portion of the shell that is disposed in register with side rails of the vehicle.

22.(previously presented) The motor vehicle beam shell of claim 17, wherein the recess is defined by a portion of the shell that has an open cross-section.

23.(canceled).

24.(canceled).

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- 25.(previously presented) The motor vehicle beam shell of claim 17, wherein the recess includes an impact-absorber.
- 26.(previously presented) The motor vehicle beam shell of claim 25, wherein the impact absorber includes honeycombs.
- 27.(canceled).
- 28.(currently amended) The motor vehicle beam shell of claim ~~27~~ 17, wherein the thermoplastic material ~~includes~~ consists of polypropylene.
- 29.(previously presented) The motor vehicle beam shell of claim 17, wherein the shell cladding encloses the strength member.
- 30.(canceled).
- 31.(canceled).
- 32.(previously presented) The motor vehicle beam shell of claim 17, wherein the recess consists of a channel.
- 33-36.(canceled)
- 37.(currently amended) A motor vehicle beam designed to be placed behind a bumper skin, said beam including a strength member comprising metal and a shell having with a recess for receiving a strength member, the shell consisting essentially of thermoplastic material and including shell cladding which interfits with the shell, thereby forming a hollow body defining the recess for receiving the strength member. [[.]]
- 38.(canceled)